get into some bus to leave the town and happens to remain there for a few minutes one will have the painful experience of being surrounded by a large number of disease stricken people who come for alms. The question is whether some provision should not be made for the housing and protection of these people who are thus unable to help themselves. I am not unmindful of the fact that what is to be considered in connection with the disease stricken people is the establishment of hospitals. I refer to this merely to show that this is a very large problem. What I mean to insist on in this resolution deals with only a part of that large problem. Now this refers to a class of people who can be divided into several sub-divisions. There are disease stricken people who have to be provided for.

Apart from the question of people suffering from contagious diseases, there is an other aspect of the matter. There are disabled destitutes whose condition we have to consider. This is what I intend to bring to the notice of this House by means of this resolution. There is no knowing now as to the number of people who will have to be provided with homes like those contemplated in this resolution.

## ADJOURNMENT MOTION RE WANT OF IRRIGATION FACILITIES.

**PRESIDENT** : It is now 3-30. This discussion will now stop and the House will take up for discussion the adjournment motion of Mr. N. K. Krishna Pillai.

**MR. N. K. KRISHNA PILLAI** (*Neyyattinkara*) : Sir, you need hardly be told that we Travancoreans are mainly agriculturists and that rice is our staple food. For the proper cultivation of paddy sufficient facilities of irrigation are absolutely necessary. We know but too well that the ryots in Travancore are becoming poorer and poorer day by day. The cost of cultivation is increasing because the prices of the necessaries of life are also increasing. But, along with that we also see that the cultivator's margin of profit is not increasing. One of the main causes for this is, I submit, want of sufficient facilities for water, and we know for instance that fields which were yielding ten or fifteen folds of crops till some years back, are now yielding only 5 folds and in some places I know that they yield only 3 fold crops. It was in view of this deplorable state of affairs that during the past so many years the representatives of the people both in the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly and also in this Council have been bringing to the notice of the Government the extreme hardship and untold misery to which the people are put due to want of proper irrigational facilities. But I do not mean to say that the Government are not doing anything in the matter. My complaint is that the response made by the Government is not adequate enough. They are not attending to this most vital problem

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as they ought to, so that I might even say that our peasantry, of which we were proud till some years back, are now fast fading away.

Sir, some years back in Trivandrum a committee was appointed which was presided over by no less a person than Mr. Arunachalam Aiyar who is now the Executive Engineer of this Division. That committee set to work and submitted a report which would show that the committee selected for improvement about 269 tanks and classified those tank works as emergent, very urgent and urgent. They also recommended, as the report says that "It is necessary that the restoration of the tanks must be completed within a period of four years by the deputation of special staff appointed for this purpose". Our Government, however, have wisely evaded taking any action on this report which must ere this have passed into their waste paper basket. Two years ago Dr. Madhavan Pillai drew the attention of the Government to this very important matter and the Dewan-President then promised that he would re-study the report and also try to inaugurate a new policy with regard to irrigation. Two years have elapsed now and we are where we were then.

Sir, passing on to my own constituency, I have to tell this House that it is a taluk where the fields are irrigated mainly, and I may say solely, by its tanks. In that taluk we have not less than 875 tanks according to a certain estimate. But of these the Government some time back selected-I do not know which committee or body so selected—139 tanks to be restored and improved. To an interpellation which I sent to Government about an year ago Government replied that out of these 139 tanks only 16 tanks had been improved. At this rate, by the time that all these tanks are restored and improved, the present generation who are clamouring for more and more tanks and also the next generation will have passed away. My submission is that at the present rate, *i. e*, the rate at which Government are now attending to this most important work of improving irrigation tanks, the public and the ryots may not have much to gain. It is in short a life and death struggle which the poor ryots are now put to because of the indifference, nay apathy of the Government in the matter.

Then I think a similar state of affairs exists with regard to my friend Mr. T. C. Kesava Pillai's constituency also, about which, I think, he will have his own say.

Now another important matter which I have to place before this House is the divided responsibility of the several departments with regard to this matter. The responsibility does not now rest with any one department. There is the Revenue Department and there is the Public Works Department. Whenever a grievance occurs to the ryots, the complaint is being taken to either of these departments. The correspondence goes on for a pretty long time. Some times it may drag on for five or six years. Meanwhile the poor ryots may be put to further

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difficulties. This specific matter was brought to the notice of this House on a prior occasion and the Government promised to do something very definite in the matter. The suggestion was that a special department with a special staff should be established to deal with all matters relating to irrigation. But till now nothing has been done and the poor ryots are exactly where they were. To point out some of the defects of the present policy of irrigation, I may at once say that the present system of asking the same man to investigate and execute is ludicrous and unsafe. Knowing human nature as we do, a man who is entrusted with the work of investigation will not be anxious to find more and more work which he himself will have to execute. Another point is that much of the difficulties might be overcome by constituting local boards of irrigation. As for this matter, I myself sent in a resolution this time but unfortunately it has not come for discussion as a result of the balloting. By establishing Irrigation Boards with a non-official majority, the Government will be in a better position to come into close touch with the people and know their needs more intimately. Their proposals can be submitted to the Government and the Government may act on these proposals and thereby relief can be more effectively given to the suffering ryots.

I may refer to some instances in my own constituency which would show how the Government have not been sufficiently sympathetic to the aspirations of the people. My taluk is one where the fields are, as I said, fed solely by these tanks. Even if all the tanks are now simultaneously improved, we fear that we may not be able to get sufficient water for our fields; so it was that the representatives of the people approached the Government and suggested a scheme known as the Aruvikara scheme by which the water from the Neyyar was sought to be diverted to our fields by means of channels so that a large area might be irrigated very easily. Last year, the Dewan replied to their representatives of the Popular Assembly that some investigation has been made into the matter and that Government are prepared to make further investigation. Both the members in my constituency made strong representations on this subject and to both of them the Dewan held out the same promise. But, till now nothing has been done. Well, that is one instance.

Referring to another instance of a very grave nature I may mention the case of Kottukal *yela*. Kottukal is one of the biggest of the pakuties of the Neyyattinkara taluk and it consists of thousands of acres of paddy lands. About 20 years ago during the heavy rains the whole *yela* was damaged by floods and the ryots bitterly complained to the Government. The Government being convinced of the real need of the people constructed a channel at the eastern side of the *yela*, which cost to the Government about twenty thousand rupees. The proposal of the Government then was also to construct another channel on the western side without which the object of bringing the eastern channel into existence could not be satisfied. Now, after all these long years the western channel

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has not been constructed and the fields are in the same damaged condition as they were in 1080 when the damage took place. This continued to be brought to the notice of Government repeatedly in the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly and also in the Legislative Council. Nevertheless up till now Government do not seem to have devoted any serious attention to it. I have merely referred to these two particular instances simply to point out to this House the way in which such vital needs of the people with regard to matters irrigational and the popular clamour for more and more irrigational facilities are generally considered and acted upon by the Government who are not tired of spending fabulous sums of the poor rate payers for catering to the comforts and luxuries of the urban population.

It is just to bring to the notice of Government the difficulties of the people consequent on the absence of any definite useful scheme as regards this all—important work of irrigation which affects the well-being of the people and even their very existence that I have brought forward this motion before the House. I would suggest that the Government would do well to constitute a committee to go into this all-important question and formulate proposals for a sound irrigation policy and also for the immediate amendment of the Irrigation Regulation. With these words I would commend my motion for the acceptance of the House.

MR. T. C. KESAVA PILLAI (*Kalkulam cum Vilavankod*): സർ, ഇന്നു തിരുവിതാംകൂറിലുള്ള എല്ലായും പ്രധാനമായിട്ടുള്ള സംഗതികളിൽ ഏറ്റവും പ്രധാനമായിട്ടുള്ളതു ഇറിഗേഷനാണു്. ഈ നാട്ടിൽ ഉദ്ദേശം 2 കോടി രൂപായോളം വിലവരുന്ന നെല്ലു ഇറക്കുമതിചെയ്യുവരുന്നു എന്നു് എക്കണോമിക് റിപ്പോർട്ടുകാണ്ടു കാണുന്നുണ്ടു്. ഈ നാട്ടിൽനിന്നും പല വിധത്തിലും, ഗവണ്മെൻറിനും, പൊതുജനപ്രതിനിധികൾക്കും, കച്ചവടക്കാർക്കും മറ്റെല്ലാ ആളുകൾക്കും കിട്ടുന്നതായ പണം മുഴുവൻ കൃഷിയിൽനിന്നുണ്ടാകുന്നതാണു് എന്നാണു് വിശ്വസിക്കപ്പെട്ടിരിക്കുന്നതു്. അതിനാൽ കൃഷിക്കു പ്രധാനമായിട്ടുള്ള സൌകര്യം ചെയ്തുകൊടുക്കേണ്ട ചുമതല ഗവണ്മെൻറിനുണ്ടു്.

MR. A. VIPAN (*Chief Engineer*): Sir, may I request the member to speak in English?

PRESIDENT: I thought I shall have to leave it to the member himself, because I have allowed him to speak in Malayalam at his own request.

Mr. Kesava Pillai, if you can talk in English, please do so.

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**MR. T. C. KESAVA PILLAI** (*Kalkulam* cum *Vilavankod*) : Sir, this is one of the most important matters that we, the members on the non-official side would place before this Council.

**PRESIDENT :** Louder please.

**MR. T. C. KESAVA PILLAI** (*Kalkulam* cum *Vilavankod*) : Generally the interpretation of the word 'irrigation' is not properly understood in all parts of Travancore. In north Travancore the necessity for irrigation is not keenly felt. There are Government publications, memoranda of late Dewans, and reports made by genuine patriots like Mr. P. Thanu Pillai-Dewan, Nanu Pillai and others, various representations made by Messrs. T. Kumara Pillai, Sivatanu Pillai and others in this Council and the expressions of opinion made by expert Engineers like Mr. Horsely, which would go to show that Travancore requires a capital Irrigation scheme or schemes to be worked out in various centres. In 1072 the necessity for such works was keenly felt and a draft Bill was introduced and passed into law as the Irrigation Regulation. But this Regulation contains but few provisions beneficial to the ryots and that cannot be called a Regulation. It is therefore high time to get that Regulation amended.

Sir, although in the Budgets of previous years very small amounts were allotted for irrigation works, nothing has been done. This may be due to irregularity on the part of the officers or to the fact that they being foreigners, were not at all particular to see that sons of the soil were properly taken care of. I would also in this connection like to mention that I have sent in a series of interpellations for this meeting as well as for the last meeting about the lapsing of amounts and the conduct of Division Officers and Sub-Division Officers ; but not many of them have been answered. I do not know how for the Chief Engineer is responsible for these things or how far the Government are responsible for these things.

I will make clear another aspect of the question. According to the Irrigation Regulation when a minor irrigation tank is to be restored, the Chief Engineer generally recommends to the Government that only Rs. 100 per acre is to be expended and the Government generally sanction the Chief Engineer's recommendation. When I put an interpellation to Government the reply was that there was no such direction from them. I understand from the Chief Engineer when he inspected a locality in my constituency that there is a data kept in his office—most probably the conclusion arrived at by an expert Chief Engineer. According to this data, one acre foot of water is required to irrigate one acre of paddy land. Travancore is an undulating country full of hills and dales. If water is stored in a tank at 50 feet above sea level it would percolate through the earth to a field 50 feet down and in one or two days the whole water in the tank drains up. Therefore, such guiding data as are kept in the Chief Engineer's office will serve no useful purpose. Again these tanks are never repaired and restored to their original condition.

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[Mr. T. C. Kesava Pillai.]

I have shown these things to the Chief Engineer. I took him to a tank for which about 15,000 rupees have been spent and I asked an interpellation regarding the number of times the Chief Engineer inspected that tank. Three years ago the then Chief Engineer inspected the tank and told me that the Sub-Division Officer had made a mistake. Three months back the present Chief Engineer came to the spot and said "what are we to do; are the poor ryots to be made responsible for the mistakes committed by Sub-Division Officers"?

I therefore simply want to bring to the notice of the House that even though large sums of money are expended, people are not relieved of hardships caused on account of inadequate supply of water.

What I am going to say may be extraneous to the motion before the House. I wish to state that the people of south Travancore are all very grateful to the present Division Officer of Nagercoil for the work he has done. All my friends coming from south Travancore including Mr. T. Kumara Pillai would agree with me in saying that he is thoroughly honest. But he does not expend anything from the amounts allotted for the improvement of irrigation tanks and thousands of rupees lapse annually to the Government. It may be advantageous from the Government's point of view to have these lapses but it is detrimental to the interests of these poor ryots.

As regards irrigation there are three classes of irrigation works—major irrigation, minor irrigation and petty irrigation. Then again, there are also channel irrigation and pumping irrigation works. In this connection I would call the attention of the Government to one of their proceedings. No. 3108/L. R., dated the 9th May 1916 wherein they have allowed channel water to be bailed for irrigation, charging 21 Chs. per acre. Even though that could be utilised I think that it is not practicable to bail water for irrigation purposes. The only source from which water should be got is from tanks. Tank means a tank at a high level. A tank just at the foot of a mountain may be stored up with water. The water collected in the tank may be drawn through a channel and may be utilised for the benefit of lands lying lower down. A tank at the lower level may be used in the same way for watering the fields still lower down. We will have therefore to see that water is stored in convenient centres.

As regards channel irrigation in South Travancore, the Kodayar Project is the only project that has been taken up. This was mentioned by Mr. Horsely in his report and even the South Travancore Christian conference has recently published a report about it. I would suggest that the Dewan-President should see that some of these big schemes such as the Chittar Scheme or the Perunjali Scheme are taken up for the benefit of the ryots of south Travancore.

So much for channel irrigation. Then there are certain suggestions to be made with regard to irrigation tanks. Major irrigation tanks are those which irrigate more than 200 acres of

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ayacut and petty irrigation tanks are those which irrigate less than 5 acres of ayacut. The irrigation Regulation does not contemplate any restoration of tanks. If the Government are particular to repair minor irrigation tanks, then the people will have to bear one half of the cost. In Kalkulam and old Eraniel, there is no necessity to pay the half contribution, but as regards the other taluks, people will have to give one half of the cost. I would suggest that the half contribution system be abolished and petty tanks be taken up for restoration.

I have only to add a few words more. My friend Mr. Krishna Pillai placed before the House certain requirements of the Neyyattinkara taluk and also invited me to speak about the needs of my own constituency. Mr. Krishna Pillai did not place before the Council the grounds why this motion should be moved in the form of an adjournment motion. All through these years, though the most important necessity so far as the ryot is concerned is irrigation, the Government have not taken up any scheme whatsoever. They have spent lakhs and lakhs of rupees on construction of roads and bridges and electric lights and water supply. I do not say that these are not important matters; but they have ignored the question of the repair of tanks. I would suggest that Government should allot before the next Budget Session of the Council an adequate amount for the improvement of these tanks.

I would also place before the Council the necessity for creating a separate Irrigation Department. At the present time, the officers have to attend to many items of work such as the construction of roads, &c. When the question of improvement of tanks is referred to the Chief Engineer, he says that his hands are full of other works. A case has therefore been made out for the creation of a separate Irrigation Department. An Irrigation Division should immediately be opened to report to Government the necessity for working out big irrigation projects and to have a definite scheme of working out minor irrigation projects.

Mr. Krishna Pillai was referring to Local Boards. I am also at one with him in thinking that Local Boards are a necessity. I suggest that there should be small bodies in various taluks for the maintenance of these tanks restored by Government. Of course, Government spend large amounts on these tanks, but they do not care about them after they are repaired. It is not possible for a Section Officer or a P. W. D. Maistry to take care of such tanks especially when damage is done to them either by natural causes or by extraneous causes. As such, it is the duty of the Government to see that Local Boards are organised. Most probably my elders will say that Irrigation Boards are not working satisfactorily and that they do more harm than good. If good officers are made Presidents, if recommendations are made to the Government, and if Government respect the wishes and the sentiments of the public, I am sure that there would be a large amount of good done to the people by the constitution of these boards. I would in this connection draw the attention of the Government to certain Government Proceedings. They are:



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(i) 540 L. R. & F. dated the 13th June 1914,
(ii) 1274 L. R. dated 6th December 1916,
(iii) 5773 dated the 17th April 1911.

Formerly Government were kind enough to consult local bodies and the leading gentlemen of the locality with regard to local requirements and conditions. For the last seven years or so, somehow or other, local representatives and requirements are ignored. It may probably be due to want of proper representations on the part of the representatives of the people or the careless way in which the Government officers are administering the affairs of the country.

I would in conclusion request the Council on behalf of three lakhs of people with tears in their eyes to accept the motion.

MR. TAMARAPALLIL KOCHUTOMMAN (*Pattanamtitta*): സർ, ഞാൻ മി. കുഞ്ഞപിള്ളയുടെ പ്രമേയത്തെ അനുകൂലിക്കുന്നു. കൃഷിപ്രധാനമായ ഈ രാജ്യത്തു പ്രകൃതിദത്തമായ അനുഗ്രഹം കൊണ്ടാണ് കൃഷിനടത്തിപോരുന്നതു്. എന്നാൽ കാലാകാലങ്ങളിലുള്ള മഴക്കുറവുകൊണ്ടും മറും കൃഷിക്കാർ പല വിധമായബുദ്ധിമുട്ടുകളും അനുഭവിച്ചു വരുന്നുണ്ടു്. എനിക്കു പ്രധാനമായി പറയാനുള്ളതു് തിരുവല്ല, അമ്പലപ്പുഴ, ചങ്ങനാശേരി, കോട്ടയം മുതലായ താലൂക്കുകളിലെ പുഞ്ചകൃഷി, വിരിപ്പുകൃഷി ഇവയെ സംബന്ധിച്ചാണ്. അമ്പലപ്പുഴ, ചങ്ങനാശേരി, തിരുവല്ലാ മുതലായ താലൂക്കുകളിലുംപ്പെട്ട നിലങ്ങളുടെ ആവശ്യത്തിന്നായി കുറിപ്പുഴതോട്ടു്, ചെറുകോൽതോട്ടു്, പോത്താനിതോട്ടു് മുതലായ പല തോടുകളുമുണ്ടു്. ചങ്ങനാശേരി- ആലപ്പുഴ തോടുവെട്ടിതരുന്നതിനു വേണ്ടി അനേകം തവണ മെമ്മോറിയൽ സമർപ്പിച്ചും പ്രജാസഭ വഴിയായിട്ടും ഗവണ്മെൻറിനെ അറിയിച്ചുകൊണ്ടിരിക്കുന്ന ഒരു സംഗതിയാണു്. അതിലേക്കു് ഇതുവരെ യാതൊരു തീരുമാനവും ഉണ്ടായിട്ടില്ല. മേൽപറയപ്പെട്ട തോടുകൾഎല്ലാം വെട്ടിയാൽമാത്രമെ മണിമല, പമ്പാ മുതലായ നദികളിലെവെള്ളം ഈ പുഞ്ചനിലങ്ങളിൽ ധാരാളം കയറുന്നതിനും വിരിപ്പു നിലങ്ങളിൽ വെള്ളം കെട്ടിനിൽക്കാതെ ഇറങ്ങിപോകുന്നതിനും സൌകര്യമുണ്ടാകുകയുള്ളു.

കഴിഞ്ഞ ബഡ്ജറ്റ് യോഗകാലത്തു് ഇറിഗേഷനെപ്പറ്റി ഞാൻ പറഞ്ഞപ്പോൾ മല്യതിരുവിതാംകൂറിൽ ഡ്രയിനേജ് അത്യാവശ്യമാണെന്നു സൂചിപ്പിക്കയുണ്ടായി. അതിലേക്കു കൃഷിഡയറക്ടർഅവർകൾ പറഞ്ഞ സമാധാനം അതു കൃഷിഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിന്റെ ചുമതല അല്ലെന്നാണു്, വേനൽക്കാലത്തു പലനിലങ്ങളിലും ഉണക്കുസംഭവിക്കുന്നുണ്ടു്,

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അതുപോലെ വഷ്കാലത്തു് ഈവിരിപ്പുനിലങ്ങളിൽ വെള്ളംകെട്ടിനിന്നു് അഴുകിചേതവും വരുന്നുണ്ടു്. അതിനാൽ മദ്ധ്യതിരുവിതാംകൂറിലെ കൃഷിസൗകര്യത്തിനദ്ധ്രുയിനേജും അത്യാവശ്യമാണു്.

ഇപ്പോൾ ക്രുഡിധാരാളമായി വദ്ധിച്ചുകൊണ്ടിരിക്കുന്ന ഒരുകാലമാണു്. പുഞ്ച നിലങ്ങളിൽ ഒന്നരാടൻവഷ്കാലങ്ങളിലെ കൃഷിയൊള്ളു. ഈ ക്രുഡിയുടെ ക്രുഡതൽ നിമിത്തവും വെള്ളത്തിന്റെ കുറവുനിമത്തവും പുഞ്ച നിലങ്ങളിൽ മുമ്പിലത്തെപ്പോലെ വിളവു ലഭിക്കുന്നില്ല. ഗവണ്മെന്റു കണ്ടുകൃഷിനിലങ്ങളും തന്നെ ഈ സ്ഥലങ്ങളിൽ ധാരാളമുണ്ടു്.

ഇവിടെ ഒരു കമ്മിറ്റിയെ സംബന്ധിച്ചു മി. കൃഷ്ണപിള്ളപ്രസ്താവിച്ചതായി കാണുന്നുണ്ടു്. അങ്ങിനെ ഒരു കമ്മിറ്റിഏർപ്പെടുത്തുന്നപക്ഷം കൃഷിയിൽ വൈദഗ്ധ്യമുള്ള കൃഷിക്കാരെക്കൂടി അതിൽ അംഗങ്ങളായി തിരഞ്ഞെടുക്കേണ്ടതാണു്.

**MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN** (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): അതു ഈ കൌൺസിലിൽ നിന്നും തിരഞ്ഞെടുത്താൽ മതിയോ?

**MR. TAMARAPALLIL KOCHUTOMMAN** (*Pattanamtitta*)) മതി, കൃഷിയെസംബന്ധിച്ചും മറും നല്ല പരിചയമുള്ളവരായിരിക്കണം എന്നെയുള്ളു.

തെക്കൻ തിരുവിതാംകൂറിൽ ഇറിഗേഷനെ സംബന്ധിച്ചു് മാത്രമെ പറയുന്നുള്ളു. മദ്ധ്യതിരുവിതാംകൂറിൽ ഇറിഗേഷനും ഡ്രുയിനേജും വേണം. അതിനാൽ ഇതിലേക്കു് ഒരു പ്രത്യേക ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറു തീരിച്ചു് ഈ വക ജോലികളെ ചുമതലപ്പെടുത്തണമെന്നുള്ള അഭിപ്രായത്തോടുകൂടി ഞാൻ ഈ പ്രമേയത്തെ പിൻതാങ്ങിക്കൊള്ളുന്നു.

**MR. TARIATU KUNJITOMMAN** (*Muvattupuzha* cum *Todupuzha*): സർ, ഞാൻ ഈ പ്രമേയത്തെ ബലമായിപിൻതാങ്ങുന്നു. മറു വിഷയങ്ങളിൽ രാജ്യത്തുണ്ടായിട്ടുള്ള അഭിവൃദ്ധിപോലെ കൃഷിവിഷയത്തിൽ വലിയ അഭിവൃദ്ധിയുണ്ടായിട്ടില്ല. ജനങ്ങളുടെ കാലക്ഷേപമാർഗ്ഗം കൃഷിയായിരിക്കെ ക്രുഡതൽ വിളവു കിട്ടത്തക്ക വിധം പരിഷ്കൃത രീതിയിലുള്ള കൃഷിസംപ്രദായത്തെ നടപ്പാക്കിയും കൃഷിസേചനവേലകൾ നടത്തി കൃഷിസ്ഥലം വദ്ധിപ്പിച്ചും വനത്തിൽ നിന്നും ചതുപ്പു സ്ഥലങ്ങൾ വിടുത്തി കൃഷിക്കാക്കു് നൽകിയും കൃഷിഅഭിവൃദ്ധിപ്പെടുത്തേണ്ടിയിരിക്കുന്നു. ഈ മാർഗ്ഗങ്ങളിൽ ഒന്നും ഗവണ്മെൻറു് വേണ്ടപോലെ ശ്രദ്ധപതിപ്പിച്ചു കാണുന്നില്ല. കൃഷിക്കാരുടെ പ്രതിനിധികളായ ഞങ്ങൾ ആവത്തിച്ചാവത്തിച്ചു പ്രമേയങ്ങളും ഉപക്ഷേപങ്ങളും വഴി ഗവണ്മെൻറിന്റെ ശ്രദ്ധയെ കൃഷിക്കായ്ത്തിൽ ക്ഷണിച്ചുകൊണ്ടിരി

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[Mr. Tariatu Kunji tomman.]

ക്കുന്നുണ്ട്. എന്നാൽ സാരമായപ്രയോജനമൊന്നുമില്ല. കൃഷിസ്ഥലമില്ലാ തെ ജനങ്ങൾ കഷ്ടപ്പെടുന്നു. ഗവണ്മെൻറ് ഉൾനാടുകളിലെകൃഷിക്കാരു ടെ സ്ഥിതികളെപ്പററി അന്വേഷിച്ചാൽ സൂക്ഷ്മമായഒരു ജ്ഞാനം ലഭി ക്കും. ഇത്തരംതൊഴിലുകളാണ്പട്ടണങ്ങളിലുള്ളത്. കൃഷി അധികവും ഉൾനാടുകളിലാണ്. അവിടെയാണു കൃഷിവിഷയമായ അന്വേഷണംനട ത്തേണ്ടത്. ആളാംപ്രതിയുള്ള കൃഷിസ്ഥലം വളരെപരിമിതമാണ്. തെ ക്കൻതിരുവിതാംകൂറിൽകൃഷിസേചനവേലകാം പോരാക്കുട്ടത്സൗകര്യം ഉണ്ടാക്കിത്തരണമെന്നു പറയുന്നു. അതനുസരിച്ച് കഴിയുന്നിടത്തോളം സൗകര്യപ്പെടുത്തി കൊടുക്കേണ്ടതത്യാവശ്യമാണ്. അവിടെപലതും ഇ നിയും ചെയ്യാനുണ്ട്. വടക്കൻ തിരുവിതാംകൂറിൽ കൃഷിവിഷയമായി ഒ ന്നും ഗവണ്മെൻറ് ഇതുവരെ ചെയ്തിട്ടില്ല. കൃഷിസേചന വേലകാം കൊണ്ട് കൃഷിക്ക് കൂട്ടുതൽ സൗകര്യം ഉണ്ടാക്കുവാൻ വടക്കൻ തിരുവി താംകൂറിൽപലതും ചെയ്യേണ്ടതുണ്ട്. വടക്കൻ തിരുവിതാംകൂറിലേക്കു പ്രത്യേകം ഒരാളെ നിയോഗിച്ചയച്ച് വേണ്ട അന്വേഷണം നടത്തി ആ ആളിന്റെ അഭിപ്രായം അനുസരിച്ച് ഗവണ്മെൻറ് പ്രവർത്തിക്കണം.

മൂവാറുപുഴ താലൂക്കിൽതന്നെ ഞാൻ ആവർത്തിച്ചാവർത്തിച്ച ഗവണ്മെൻറിന്റെശ്രദ്ധയിൽ കൊണ്ടുവന്നിട്ടുള്ള ചില ചിറകാം താ ഴ്ത്തുന്നതിനു എഞ്ചിനീയർ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറ് കുറേവേലകാം നടത്തിയി രുന്നു. രണ്ടുവർഷത്തിനുമുമ്പ് ചില്ലംവേലകാം നടത്തി ഇപ്പോൾവെറുതെ ഇട്ടിരിക്കുകയാണ്. ആയ്പ്പുള്ളിചിറ, ആട്ടായത്തുചിറ, തോട്ടക്കരചിറ ഇങ്ങനെ മൂന്നു കുളങ്ങളെ താഴ്ത്തിത്തരണമെന്നാണു ഞാൻ ആവശ്യ പ്പെട്ടിരുന്നത്. അന്നത്തെ ചീഫ് എഞ്ചിനീയർ സ്ഥലം കാണുകയും ഞാൻ മുമ്പു പ്രസ്താവിച്ചതുപോലെ അതിലെ വേലകാം ആരംഭിക്ക കയും ചെയ്തു. കുറെ വേല നടന്ന ശേഷം ഇപ്പോൾ നിറുത്തിവച്ചിരി ക്കുന്നതുകൊണ്ട് ഉപദ്രവമാണു കൃഷിക്കാക്കു നേരിട്ടിരിക്കുന്നത്. ഒന്ന് ഒരു തോട്ടിൽ ചിറ കെട്ടുന്നതിനായിരുന്നു. അവിടെ ജനങ്ങൾ കെട്ടി കൊണ്ടിരുന്നപ്പോഴാണ് ഗവണ്മെൻറിൽ നിന്നും കുറെ വേലകാം ചെ യ്തത്. ഇപ്പോൾ ജനങ്ങൾക്ക് അതു പൂർത്തിയാക്കാനും നിവൃത്തി യില്ല. ഗവണ്മെൻറ് പൂർത്തിയാക്കുന്നുമില്ല. രണ്ടു കൊല്ലമായിട്ട് ഈ ചിറകാം താഴ്ത്തുന്നതിനുള്ള വേലകാം ഒന്നും നടത്തുന്നുമില്ല. ഇതു കൂടാതെ മറ്റനേകം ചിറകാം നന്നാക്കാനുണ്ട്. ഇവയിൽ ഓരോന്നും ന ന്നാക്കുന്നപക്ഷം പത്തൻപതു ഏക്കർ സ്ഥലം വീതം കൃഷിക്കു ഉപയോ ഗപ്പെടും. തന്നാക്കുന്നതിനു അധിക ചിലവുമില്ല. ഈവക സംഗതി

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കളിൽ ഗവൺമെൻറു പ്രത്യേകം ശ്രദ്ധിക്കണം. കൃഷിവിഷയത്തിലുള്ള ജനങ്ങളുടെപ്രതീക്ഷയെല്ലാം അസ്ഥാനത്തായിരിക്കയാണ്.

**Mr. V. CHELLAM PILLAI** (*Tovala*): തെക്കൻതിരുവിതാംക്കൂറിൽ വേണ്ട കൃഷിസേചനവേലകളെല്ലാം ചെയ്തുകഴിഞ്ഞു ഇനി ചെയ്വാനില്ലന്നാണോ മെമ്പർ പറയുന്നതു്?

**Mr. TARIATU KUNJITOMMAN** (*Muvattupuzha cum Todupuzha*): ഞാൻ അങ്ങിനെ പറഞ്ഞില്ലാ. അവിടെയും പലതും ചെയ്വാനുണ്ടു്. അതുപോലെതന്നെ ഉത്തരതിരുവിതാംക്കൂറിലും പലതും ചെയ്വാനുണ്ടെന്നും രാജ്യത്തു കൃഷിസ്ഥലം വർദ്ധിപ്പിക്കാൻ വഴിയില്ലാത്തതിനാൽ റിസർവ്വിൽനിന്നും ഭൂമി വിട്ടുത്തണമെന്നും മറ്റുമാണു ഞാൻ പറഞ്ഞതു്. അല്ലാതെ തെക്കൻതിരുവിതാംക്കൂറിൽ ഇനി ഒന്നും ചെയ്യേണ്ടതില്ലെന്നു എനിക്കു അഭിപ്രായമില്ല. അവിടെ ഭൂമിനിരപ്പാകയാൽ ജലസേചനവേലകൾനടത്തുന്നതിനു അധികംസൌകര്യമുണ്ടു്. മഴ കുറവുമാണു്. കോടികണക്കിനു ഇറിഗേഷൻവേലകൾ അവിടെചിലവുചെയ്തിട്ടുണ്ടെങ്കിലും ഇനിയും ചെയ്തുകൊള്ളട്ടെ. അതിൽ സന്തോഷമേ ഒള്ളു. എന്നാൽ മദ്ധ്യോത്തരതിരുവിതാംക്കൂറിലും ചെയ്യണം. ഈ രാജ്യത്തെ ഐശ്വര്യവും നാഗരീകവും കൃഷിസ്ഥലങ്ങളിൽതന്നെയാണു വേർ ഊന്നി ഇരിക്കുന്നതു്. കൃഷിക്ഷയിച്ചാൽ മറ്റെല്ലാംതന്നെ ക്രമേണ ക്ഷയിച്ചുപോകും. അതിനാൽ ഇക്കാര്യത്തിൽ ഗവണ്മെണ്ടു പ്രത്യേകം ശ്രദ്ധിക്കണമെന്നു പ്രസ്ഥാപിച്ചുകൊണ്ടു ഞാൻ ഈ പ്രമേയത്തെ ഹാർട്ടായി പിൻതാങ്ങിക്കൊള്ളുന്നു.

**Mr. D. C. JOSEPH** (*Agastisvaram*): Sir, I support the motion moved by Mr. N. K. Krishna Pillai. This is an important thing which must engage the serious attention of Government. One of the greatest boons, rather the greatest boon, that was conferred upon the people by the late lamented statesman Sri Mulam Tirunal Maharaja is the gift given to south Travancore by the construction of the Kodayar Irrigation Project. The people of south Travancore are bound to pay great veneration for that benefit from that illustrious Sovereign. Now at this juncture it may be asked, what is the necessity for an adjournment motion? Irrigation is a simple matter and what can this House do by moving an adjournment motion? Is there a critical juncture like the cholera or any other sensational thing? But I must say that irrigation directly concerns with the life of the ryots of Nanjanad and therefore this should engage the attention of Government.

**Mr. T. C. KESAVA PILLAI** (*Kalkulam cum Vilavankod*): ഈ ആണ്ടിൽ കുറവുള്ളതായിട്ടു മെമ്പർക്കറിയാമോ?

**Mr. D. C. JOSEPH** (*Agastisvaram*): There may be.

**Mr. T. C. KESAVA PILLAI** (*Kalkulam cum Vilavankod*): പൊതുമരാമത്തു് ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരുടെ ഉദാസീനതകൊണ്ടു് അനേകായിരംരൂപാലാപ്സായി പോയിട്ടുണ്ടെന്നറിയാമോ?

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**MR. D. C. JOSEPH** (*Agastisvaram*): Yes, I know that. I am aware of it.

Mr. Kesava Pillai placed before this House the difficulties experienced by the ryots in his taluk. I wanted to lay special emphasis, on the difficulties experienced by the ryots of Nanjanad particularly of the Agastisvaram taluk. Unless attention is paid by the ryots of the taluk, irrigation will be a thorough failure in future. There were sufficient tanks which were considered as flood moderators. When any tank fell into disrepair the authorities repaired them and also when there were breaches in the course of the Pazhayar those breaches were also repaired then and there and in course of time these tanks and the course of the Pazhayar were sufficient to feed several lakhs of the ryots. Now breaches are not properly attended to. That is one thing which requires the immediate attention of this House.

Then another thing is that at considerable cost several channels were constructed by Government. There are so many channels. If any body would go and have a look at those channels they will find that these are practically abandoned. I can quote several instances. What is the cause of this negligence on the part of the authorities. I have nothing to say against the Officer in charge of that Division. He is thoroughly honest as Mr. Kesava Pillai said. But he is very stingy. The allotment given by the Government is to be spent for the use of the ryots. But he does not come forward and spend it then and there. His arrangement is very frugal and the ryots are the sufferers thereby.

**MR. V. CHELLAM PILLAI** (*Tovala*): May I know from the member whether such allotments are given at the instance of the Executive Engineer or by the Government?

**MR. D. C. JOSEPH** (*Agastisvaram*): Generally Budget allotments are prepared by the Division Officers and submitted to Government. Government sanction the allotments.

**MR. S. PIRAVIPERUMAL PILLAI** (*Commerce and Industry, South*): Has not the Chief Engineer taken any action on that?

**MR. D. C. JOSEPH** (*Agastisvaram*): Yes. He is only one man. He is a human being. He has to go from one end of the country to the other. He will not be able to give more attention to these things always though he will be responsible for it in a way. He is not practically responsible for the whole affair.

**MR. S. PIRAVIPERUMAL PILLAI** (*Commerce and Industry, South*): Am I to understand that the Chief Engineer is not responsible?

**MR. D. C. JOSEPH** (*Agastisvaram*): I cannot say whether he is responsible or not. So, these channels are abandoned altogether. Another thing also is that when people pray for any new channels or water facilities and sanction is given for the construction of those things they are not attended to properly. Consequently there is now water scarcity in the Agastisvaram taluk, *Puttalam* and other villages. There was a sanction accorded for a *kal*. But that has not been begun yet. So people in that locality suffer very much for want of proper drinking water.

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**PRESIDENT :** Irrigating the human system ?

**MR. D. C. JOSEPH** (*Agastisvaram*) : Yes, that was also not constructed. If it is constructed it will serve both the purposes, to irrigate the human system and also paddy fields. I do not go into details. I want just to draw the attention of the House to the question of appointment of a committee to make a thorough investigation into the present situation in south Travancore and to give all sorts of facilities to make irrigation in that part of the State a success.

I also want to draw the attention of this side of the House to the fact that if the Officer in charge of that Division is not sent from that locality immediately people will be very much agitated. They will always knock at the door of the Government or the Department to have their grievances redressed. So, I draw the attention of the Department to attend to these grievances immediately. With these words I support the motion.

**MR. ITTOOP ITTEECHAN** (*Kunnatnad*) : സർ, ഞാൻ മി. കുഞ്ഞപിള്ളയുടെ പ്രമേയത്തെ ഹൃദയപൂർവ്വം പിൻതാങ്ങിക്കൊള്ളുന്നു. ഒരു രാജ്യത്തിലെ ഓരോ പട്ടണങ്ങളിലും എത്രയൊ വ്യവസായങ്ങളും, യന്ത്രങ്ങളും യന്ത്രശാലകളും നടത്തിയാലും ആഹാരസാധനം സുലഭമല്ലെങ്കിൽ ആ രാജ്യത്തു യാതൊരൈശ്വര്യവുമില്ല. ഇന്നു ഈ രാജ്യത്തു കുടിൽതൊട്ടു കോട്ടാരം വരെയുള്ള ഓരോരുത്തരേയും പോഷിപ്പിച്ചുകൊണ്ടിരിക്കുന്നതു് വിദ്യാവിഹീനന്മാരും, സാധുക്കളുമായ കൃഷീവലന്മാരാണു്. ബൽജിയം, ഹാളൻറു, ജർമ്മനി മുതലായ രാജ്യങ്ങളിൽ അവിടത്തെ കൃഷിക്കാരെ സഹായിക്കുന്നതിനു വേണ്ടി ഗവണ്മെൻറുതന്നെ ഓരോ കമ്മിറ്റി സ്ഥാപിച്ചു് അവക്കുവേണ്ട ധനസഹായങ്ങളും ചെയ്തുകൊണ്ടിരിക്കുന്നു. മൈസൂർ രാജ്യത്തു് ഗവണ്മെൻറു് സാധുക്കളായ കൃഷിക്കാർക്കു ഭൂമി ദാനമായി കൊടുത്തു കൃഷിവിഷയത്തിൽ ജനങ്ങളെ പ്രോത്സാഹിപ്പിച്ചുകൊണ്ടിരിക്കുന്നു എന്നുള്ള സംഗതിയും ഗവണ്മെൻറിനു ഏറെക്കുറെ അറിയാവുന്നതാണു്. എന്നാൽ തിരുവിതാംകൂർ ഗവണ്മെൻറു് കൃഷിക്കാർക്കു വേണ്ട വിധത്തിലുള്ള സഹായസഹകരണങ്ങളും ചെയ്തു വരുന്നില്ലെന്നു ഞാൻ കഴിഞ്ഞ ബഡ്ജറ്റു് യോഗകാലത്തു പ്രസ്താപിക്കയുണ്ടായി.

സർ, ഇന്നു തിരുവിതാംകൂറിലുള്ള എല്ലാ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറും കൃഷിവിളവു കൊണ്ടാണു് ഇത്രയും മുതലെടുപ്പു വരുത്തി ഗവണ്മെൻറു ഭണ്ഡാരത്തെ പോഷിപ്പിച്ചുകൊണ്ടിരിക്കുന്നതെന്നുള്ള സംഗതി ഗവണ്മെൻറിനും അറിയാവുന്നതാണു്. അങ്ങിനെയുള്ള കൃഷിയെ അഭിവൃദ്ധിപ്പെടുത്തുന്നതിനു ഗവണ്മെൻറു് ഇതുവരെ യാതൊന്നും പ്രവർത്തിച്ചിട്ടില്ലെന്നുള്ളതു വളരെ പരിതാപകരമാണു്. വ്യവസായംകൊണ്ടും മറ്റും

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[Mr. Ittoop Itteechan.]

പരിപുഷ്ടിപ്പെട്ടുകൊണ്ടിരിക്കുന്നതായ ഓരോ രാജ്യങ്ങളിൽപോലും കൃഷിയെ അഭിവൃദ്ധിപ്പെടുത്തുന്നതിനു് എത്രയോ ധനം ചിലവഴിച്ചു പോരുന്നുണ്ടു്. എന്നാൽ കൃഷി കൊണ്ടുമാത്രം ഉപജീവനം നടത്തിപോരുന്ന നമ്മുടെ രാജ്യത്തെ ഗവണ്മെൻറു ഈ സംഗതിയിൽ മൌനം ദീക്ഷിക്കുന്നതിൻെറ രഹസ്യം മനസ്സിലാകുന്നില്ല. നമ്മുടെ ഗവണ്മെൻറു് ഇതര രാജ്യങ്ങളിലെ സ്ഥിതിഗതികളന്വേഷിച്ചു് നമുക്കു് ഒരു കൃഷിഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറു തുറന്നതന്നെ. "ഏട്ടിൽ കണ്ട പശു പുല്ലു തിന്നുകയില്ല" എന്ന നിലയിൽ ഈ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറു വത്തിക്കുകയാണു ചെയ്യുന്നതു്. ഈ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിനു വേണ്ട ശക്തി കൊടുക്കാത്തതുകൊണ്ടാണു് ഇവിടെ കൃഷിക്കാക്കു സാരമായ ഗുണങ്ങളൊന്നും ലഭിക്കാത്തതു്.

അതിനാൽ നമ്മുടെ ഗവണ്മെൻറു ഇനി എങ്കിലും ഒരു കമ്മിറ്റി സ്ഥാപിച്ചു കൃഷീവലന്മാരെ അഭിവൃദ്ധിപ്പെടുത്താത്ത പക്ഷം വിദേശത്തുനിന്നും നെല്ലും അരിയും കൂടുതൽ ഇറക്കുമതി ചെയ്യേണ്ടിവരും. മി. കൃഷ്ണപിള്ള മൂന്നുകോടി രൂപായുടെ നെല്ലു തിരുവിതാംകൂറിൽ വരുന്നുണ്ടെന്നു ഇവിടെ പ്രസ്താവിക്കയുണ്ടായി. എന്നാൽ ഇനി ഈ നിലയ്ക്കുപോവുകയാണെങ്കിൽ ഇനിയും ഈ ഇറക്കുമതി ചെയ്യുന്ന നെല്ലു് അരി ഇവയുടെ സംഖ്യ വർദ്ധിച്ചു വരികയെയൊള്ളൂ.

**MR. TARIATU KUNJITOMMAN** (*Muvattupuzha cum Todupuzha*): കുന്നത്തുനാടു താലൂക്കിലെ അതിരപ്പള്ളി സ്കീം നടപ്പിൽ വന്നാൽ വളരെ ഭൂമികൂടി കൃഷിക്കു ഉപയോഗപ്പെടുത്താൻ പാടില്ലെ?

**MR. ITTOOP ITTEECHAN** (*Kunnatnad*): ഇതിനെപ്പറ്റി ബഡ്ജറ്റു യോഗകാലത്തു ഞാൻ വേണ്ടപോലെ ഗവണ്മെൻറിനെ ഉൽബോധിപ്പിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ടു്. ഇപ്പോഴും അതിനെപ്പറ്റിപ്പറഞ്ഞു് ഒരു ഈർഷ്യത ഗവണ്മെൻറിനു വരുത്തണ്ടാ എന്നു വിചാരിച്ചാണു പറയാത്തതു്. അതിരപ്പള്ളിസ്കീമിനെപ്പറ്റി പറയുകയാണെങ്കിൽ വളരെയുണ്ടു്. പെരിയാർഅണകെട്ടി ബ്രിട്ടീഷ് ഗവണ്മെൻറു് മധുര തിരുനൽവേലി മുതലായ സ്ഥലങ്ങളിൽ വെള്ളം കൊണ്ടുപോയി അനേകായിരം ഏക്കർ സ്ഥലം കൃഷി നടത്തുന്നുണ്ടു്. എന്നാൽ അതിരപ്പള്ളിയിൽ ഒരണ കെട്ടിയാൽ അനേകം ഏക്കർ സ്ഥലം ഇവിടെ കൃഷിക്കുപയോഗപ്പെടുത്താം. അവിടെ ഒന്നരണ്ടു പ്രാവശ്യം നമ്മുടെ ഗവണ്മെൻറു എത്തി നോക്കീട്ടുണ്ടു്. അതുകൊണ്ടു് അതിരപ്പള്ളി സ്കീം നടപ്പിൽ വരുത്തേണ്ടതത്യാവശ്യമാണു്. ഇത്രയും പ്രസ്താവിച്ചുകൊണ്ടു ഞാൻ ഈ പ്രമേയത്തെ ഹാർട്ടമായി പിൻതാങ്ങിക്കൊള്ളുന്നു.

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**MR. A. VIPAN** (*Chief Engineer*): Sir, I am glad of the manner in which Mr. Krishna Pillai has brought forward his motion. With the permission of the House I will quote a few figures to show exactly how the matter stands at present in the matter of protective irrigation.

The following number of works have been investigated and carried out during the years 1099 to 1104 :—

| | | *No. of works investigated and estimates prepared.* | *No. of works executed or in progress.* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1. | Alwaye ... | 29 | 23 |
| 2. | Kottayam ... | 36 | 10 |
| 3. | Quilon ... | 75 | 33 |
| 4. | Trivandrum... | 174 | 80 |
| 5. | Nagercoil ... | 76 | 53 |

The expenditure on protective irrigation during the years 1098 to 1104 is as follows :—

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1098 | ... | Rs. 70,685 |
| 1099 | ... | ,, 94,691 |
| 1100 | ... | ,, 1,47,397 |
| 1101 | ... | ,, 1,38,650 |
| 1102 | ... | ,, 91,114 |
| 1103 | ... | ,, 1,29,866 |
| 1104 | ... | ,, 84,541 |

From these figures it is clear that the expenditure has been falling down. The main reasons being (1) the dilatory process in securing sanction to the estimates in time consequent on the rigour imposed by the existing Irrigation Regulation and the Rules thereunder and (2) the inadequacy of the present staff. The second may be urged as the chief cause. The normal staff of the department stands today as it stood after the reorganisation in 1098.

**MR. T. C. KESAVA PILLAI** (*Kalkulam* cum *Vilavankod*): May I know whether the sanction of Government is required for taking up irrigation works ?

**MR. A. VIPAN** (*Chief Engineer*): Certainly.

**MR. T. C. KESAVA PILLAI** (*Kalkulam* cum *Vilavankod*): May I know whether it will be convenient or inconvenient if that power is given to the Chief Engineer, that is to say a budget allotment is made and the funds are given to the Chief Engineer ?

**MR. A. VIPAN** (*Chief Engineer*): I am not sure. I cannot answer that question.

**MR. T. C. KESAVA PILLAI** (*Kalkulam* cum *Vilavankod*): The estimate is sanctioned by the Chief Engineer.

**MR. A. VIPAN** (*Chief Engineer*): I cannot answer that question at present.

**MR. T. C. KESAVA PILLAI** (*Kalkulam* cum *Vilavankod*): Will it be convenient, I ask ?



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MR. A. VIPAN (*Chief Engineer*): It might be convenient.

MR. S. PIRAVIPERUMAL PILLAI (*Commerce and Industry, South*): May I know whether the staff of last year when the expenditure fell was the same as that of the previous years when the expenditure was high?

MR. A. VIPAN (*Chief Engineer*): The staff remains the same. But there are other reasons which go into that.

The normal staff of the department stands today as it stood after the reorganisation in 1098 and the expenditure under ordinary public works is as follows:—

| | Rs. |
|---|---|
| 1098 | 26·87 lakhs. |
| 1102 | 29·20 ,, |
| 1103 | 36·80 ,, |
| 1104 | 41·95 ,, |
| 1105 | 42·45 ,, (budgetted.) |

while the cost of the establishment stood as follows:—

| | Rs. |
|---|---|
| 1098 | 4·67 lakhs. |
| 1102 | 4·73 ,, |
| 1103 | 4·78 ,, |
| 1104 | 5·59 ,, |
| 1105 | 5·53 ,, |

The comparative rise in 1104 and 1105 is due to the inclusion of some temporary staff.

Further a percentage of my salaries and allowances and those of my staff in the office have legitimately to be charged to the Capital schemes that were under investigation and execution during the years 1103 and 1104.

The cost of the temporary staff for the years 1104 and 1105 is Rs. 43,792 and Rs. 39,746 respectively.

From the above figures it will be seen that the establishment charges from 1098 to 1102 work out at 16 per cent including temporary establishment and 15·9 per cent excluding temporary establishment; while they work out to 12·8 per cent for the years 1103 to 1105 including temporary establishment and 12 per cent excluding temporary establishment and those for 1104 to 1105 is 12·7 per cent and 11·8 per cent respectively. It will thus be seen that the staff is being called on to do more work than it was intended to do in 1098, when it was reorganised by reducing the number of Executive Engineers from 9 to 6 and Assistant Engineers from 17 to 11. A comparison of the establishment charges in other parts of the country such as Madras, Hyderabad, South Indian Railway, etc., would make it more patent. There they are 20 to 25 per cent, 30 per cent and 27 to 30 per cent respectively. In Travancore it is 12 per cent.

The late Sir Rajagopalachari has recorded his opinion in the G. O. reorganising the P. W. D. in 1910 that a ratio of 13 to 100 or 16 to

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100 cannot be consistent with good work and that what is saved in establishment charges is probably being lost several times over by bad work due to the absence of adequate higher supervision. The then Government fixed that the percentage should be at least 20.

I am of opinion that consistent with efficiency and proper supervision, the normal P. W. D. expenditure the present staff can cope with can be put down at only less than 30 lakhs. But our normal expenditure during 1103 to 1105 is calculated to be about 41 lakhs and odd.

Then with regard to the Irrigation Regulation and the Rules thereunder, the Regulation requires that a schedule of lands for every minor work proposed to be improved should be prepared and a notice published in the Gazette giving the abstract of the estimate and objections invited from the interested ryots. A period of one month has to be allowed for hearing objections after which alone the sanction of Government to the estimate can be sought for. This procedure stands in the way of the progress of work.

MR. T. C KESAVA PILLAI (*Kalkulam* cum *Vilavankod*): May I know whether he has any objection in removing these clauses from the Regulation?

MR. A. VIPAN (*Chief Engineer*): I do not think it is a matter within my province.

MR. T. C. KESAVA PILLAI (*Kalkulam* cum *Vilavankod*): May I know whether there is any technical objection in removing these clauses?

MR. A. VIPAN (*Chief Engineer*): That will be considered.

MR. T. C. KESAVA PILLAI (*Kalkulam* cum *Vilavankod*): At any rate, may I know whether the Chief Engineer is of that view?

MR. A. VIPAN (*Chief Engineer*): If the member will wait for a minute I will deal with the matter.

Government have under consideration the question of having an adequate agency to devote full attention to irrigation. Government are also considering the desirability of amending the present Rules and Regulations so as to expedite the procedure in carrying out these works.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): Sir, I was expecting some more definite statements from the Chief Engineer.

MR. S. PIRAVIPERUMAL PILLAI (*Commerce and Industry, South*): Every one was expecting.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): He gave a number of figures about the money spent by his department in the several years under various heads and such other things which practically led nowhere. The one thing I was able to gather from what he said is that the procedure now followed in the matter of minor irrigation is defective and that stands in the way mainly of much being done to improve the condition of the ryots. Eventually he closed by saying that something is under the consideration of the Government. It appears that there is some idea of improving the Regulations and Rules. That announcement

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[Mr. A. Thanu Pillai.]

by the Chief Engineer practically dispenses with the need of saying anything to impress upon the Government, the necessity to deal with this problem without any delay whatsoever. But one fact still stands out prominent. Even though Government may say that a particular thing is receiving their consideration, our experience is that the Government of Travancore takes much longer time for consideration than the necessities of the situation can allow.

**MR. T. C. KESAVA PILLAI** (*Kalkulam* cum *Vilavankod*): Is the member aware that there is a scheme pending before the Government at the present time?

**MR. A. THANU PILLAI** (*Trivandrum*): I do not know what is pending before the Government. Government have, I think, on more occasions than one said that they had something in contemplation in respect of Irrigation as they have from time to time told us that many other things are engaging their attention in respect of urgent matters. So the announcement by the Chief Engineer that Government are contemplating the revision of the Irrigation Regulation and rules thereunder, Sir, cannot give us any comfort whatsoever, considering the way in which Government have been dealing with questions of great importance affecting important interests in the country. We do not know at what stage the scheme, if any, is, when they are going to take up the work of revising the Rules and Regulations and of bringing into existence a speedier kind of procedure or a more effective kind of machinery for the purpose. The matter is very urgent. My wonder has all along been how the Government have not yet shown any clear indication of their having grasped the real facts connected with the condition of ryots due to the lack of irrigation facilities. I may assure the House in the most emphatic terms at my command that this is a problem by no means less important than any problem that ought to engage the attention of Government. The Director of Agriculture if he really has a proper conception of the functions attaching to his office must be in a position to impress upon the Government the real condition of the agriculturists in Travancore due to the lack of irrigation facilities. Sir, I come from the same village as the Director of Agriculture and I know how my neighbours—

**MR. T. C. KESAVA PILLAI** (*Kalkulam* cum *Vilavankod*): Is the member aware that the Economic Development Board has made recommendations?

**PRESIDENT**: Do not interrupt him in the middle of a sentence.

**MR. A. THANU PILLAI** (*Trivandrum*): The Development Board might have made any number of recommendations and there have also been recommendations of this House to re-inforce the recommendations of the Development Board. But we find Government are slow to move. Sir, the Director of Agriculture comes from the same village as myself and I know my neighbours have been suffering for many years for want of water to irrigate their paddy lands with,

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Certainly that does not appear a serious matter to men who have not got directly to do with agriculture. That I think is the real explanation for this indifference on the part of the Government. I can assure the House that the condition of the ryots at any rate in the taluks of Vilavankod, Neyyattinkara, Trivandrum, Chirayinkil and Neduvangad can be made thrice as good as it is to-day if we can only improve the irrigation tanks in these taluks. I know instances where the ryots have not been reaping any crops worth the name for several consecutive seasons for want of water.

The paddy lands in these taluks are like the chataka birds that depend directly upon the water falling from above. If the water falls directly into their lands from above the poor ryots get some paddy. Otherwise they do not. That is the actual state of affairs, at any rate, in respect of the taluks I have mentioned. I do not think any officer or any other authority who is conversant with these facts will deny that statement of mine. Is it that the Government of Travancore are not able to meet the situation or spend a few lakhs of rupees, let it be ten or fifteen or twenty lakhs, and see that the condition of the poor ryots is improved? If it is not the duty of the Government whose duty is it, I ask? What is the necessity for putting off this matter? When we represent this matter from this side of the House Government tell us that this matter is receiving their consideration. This is not a matter that can be allowed to be pending long. The stomach cannot wait for the consideration of the Government. What is the difficulty, what is the amount that is required, what is the time that will be taken—these are questions that ought to be considered. The Chief Engineer now tells us that the question is engaging the attention of Government. I put it to him how long will it engage the attention of Government. How many days will be required for these Rules to be changed and an agency appointed that will be effective in their application? If the Government are not earnest about it, I am at a loss to see how they can take a view that will be favourable to the people. Why not appoint a Committee or authorise some competent officer who knows his duty—to enquire into the matter, explore the possibilities of irrigation, make a list of the existing tanks and of new tanks that are required, and then start work. The Chief Engineer says that under the Rules Government sanction can be had only after months and years.]

**MR. K. MADHAVAN PILLAI** (*Trivandrum* cum *Neduvangad*): What does he say about irrigation tanks that have been filled up by assignment?

**MR. A. THANU PILLAI** (*Trivandrum*): Other tanks must be substituted.

If Government are responsible for assigning away all tank-beds, it is clearly the duty of the Government to acquire the lands that have been already assigned away and construct new tanks.

**MR. K. MADHAVAN PILLAI** (*Trivandrum* cum *Neduvangad*): Has he not seen the tank near his own house and just near the Ulloor bridge now being filled up?

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MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): Yes. This may be a very small matter to a very big Revenue Officer. But to the poor ryots this is a very big matter. There should be a committee for the entire State. Local committees may be appointed for the taluks. A list of tanks requiring repair and of new tanks that have to be constructed should be prepared and the necessary agency should be appointed for carrying out the work. If it is to be a part of the Engineering Department appoint a sufficiently high officer and give him a sufficient number of assistants. That is what I would advocate. But tinkering with this problem and telling the people of this country at large that the Government are considering the matter is no use. "If you don't get it," Government say, "your children or grand children will get it." The necessary Engineers will have to be appointed. That expenditure Government will have to meet. Are not Government spending large amounts of money on other matters? Cannot Government spend a few lakhs of rupees on this very urgent and important matter? They can find money and get competent men and then get on with this work. There is no good the Chief Engineer telling us that it is being considered and orders will be passed soon. We do not attach any value to that statement. In Karkatakam last the Dewan-President told us that particular matter will be considered by Government. To-day I got the answer of Government that the matter is being considered by them. The matter has been receiving consideration for the last six months. It has not advanced an inch and by the next Budget Session probably it will not have advanced any further. It will receive consideration for many years more. With all the emphasis at my command I would urge upon the House the immediate necessity for taking up this question of irrigation. The Administration will be thanked by a large number of people for the good work that they do. (*Hear, hear*). There is no question more important than this. So, I strongly support the motion.

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Director of Agriculture and Fisheries*): Sir, Mr. Krishna Pillai has brought up a subject of very great importance. The subject is minor but I would say that it is a subject of major importance as far as Travancore is concerned. Government are fully aware of the fact that the success of paddy cultivation depends upon the provision of irrigation facilities. Government have in Travancore realised this fact, and, as all the members know, they have spent, something like a crore of rupees on the Kodayar Irrigation Project to provide water for the paddy crops, in south Travancore.

MR. K. MADHAVAN PILLAI (*Trivandrum cum Neduvangad*): How long ago was that?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Director of Agriculture and Fisheries*): May be several years ago. I say Government have done this. Again Government have not neglected the question of minor irrigation. As a result of the representations made in the Popular Assembly, in the Council and in the Economic Development Board, they have appointed four investigating officers one for each Division of

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Trivandrum, Quilon, Kottayam and Alwaye—Mr. Vipan says, 6—to investigate minor irrigation works, prepare estimates and execute them, Mr. Vipan has stated that several works have been investigated and a good many have been executed.

**MR. A. THANU PILLAI** (*Trivandrum*): Has the Director any idea of the proportion of works executed to the works investigated?

**RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI** (*Director of Agriculture and Fisheries*): I have no idea. I only say that Government are aware of the necessity of providing irrigation facilities for the successful cultivation of paddy.

**MR. N. K. KRISHNA PILLAI** (*Neyyattinkara*): Are these Investigation Officers not saddled with works other than irrigation?

**RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI** (*Director of Agriculture and Fisheries*): Mr. Vipan says no. They are entirely put on this investigation work. Only a very small portion of the work has been done and there is a good deal more to be done yet. Government are aware of this fact and are taking proper steps to evolve a scheme to give effect to the desire of the people in this matter.

At the same time may I point out to the non-official members on the other side that the people have also a duty in the matter. They should co-operate with the Government in carrying out the works. Mr. Thanu Pillai referred to our own common village where paddy cultivation suffers. I remember in my younger days when I was a schoolboy, people used to combine and construct a dam across a stream to take water to their paddy lands. But now nothing is being done. There was a tank near my house. An influential gentleman purchased the land adjoining it and in course of time he encroached upon nearly three-fourths of it and consequently the paddy lands which used to be irrigated from this tank now suffer when the rain fails.

**MR. A. THANU PILLAI** (*Trivandrum*): Does the member know that the holdings are being subdivided so that the areas people held once are being divided into small portions?

**RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI** (*Director of Agriculture and Fisheries*): Yes, I know it. That is no reason why irrigation tanks should be encroached upon and filled up.

There is a complaint from the other side of the House that Government do not take action to prevent encroachments upon tank beds. What I say is that people should co-operate with the Government to see that the tank-beds are not encroached upon. They should also combine among themselves and carry out such works as they used to do, for example, the construction of temporary dams across streams.

**MR. K. MADHAVAN PILLAI** (*Trivandrum cum Neduvangad*): Can he say what is the economic condition of the people in his own village today compared with what it was before?

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**RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI** (*Director of Agriculture and Fisheries*): The condition today is much worse than what it was in my younger days. Now the people would not combine for a common purpose. One of them goes and converts his field into a cocoanut garden; the others suffer. All that I would point out to the other side of the House is that Government expect people also to co-operate with them in this matter.

**MR. V. CHELLAM PILLAI** (*Tovala*): May I ask the member how the people should co-operate with the Government in the matter of irrigation?

**RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI** (*Director of Agriculture and Fisheries*): I shall come to it presently. Recently several tanks have been repaired and restored to their original condition. When I went to Kuzhitturai, Mr. T. C. Kesava Pillai told me that most of these tanks have been silted up. Under the Irrigation Regulation minor tanks have to be maintained by the people themselves. They could also co-operate with the P. W. D. in maintaining larger tanks.

**MR. V. CHELLAM PILLAI** (*Tovala*): The tanks have to be maintained by the P. W. D. What is the use of the people co-operating with them?

**RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI** (*Director of Agriculture and Fisheries*): If people do not co-operate, the tanks will get silted up. When Government have done their portion of the work the public should also do theirs.

**MR. V. CHELLAM PILLAI** (*Tovala*): That does not follow that the people should co-operate with them.

**RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI** (*Director of Agriculture and Fisheries*): It depends upon the meaning you attach to the word co-operation.

**MR. K. MADHAVAN PILLAI** (*Trivandrum* cum *Neduvangad*): What irrigaiton agency have the Government now got in the villages for doing that?

**RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI** (*Director of Agriculture and Fisheries*): I am coming to it. Unless people also co-operate with the department, it is not possible to maintain all the tanks for ever in a proper condition. Now, what are the things that stand in the way of the department carrying out the work. Mr. Vipan has pointed out that his staff is very limited. He has a Budget of 45 lakhs but only a limited staff to spend it.

**MR. N. K. KRISHNA PILLAI** (*Neyyattinkara*): Who is responsible for the want of staff?

**RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI** (*Director of Agriculture and Fisheries*): Anybody may be responsible. The Government may be responsible, the Council or any other body.

**MR. K. MADHAVAN PILLAI** (*Trivandrum* cum *Neduvangad*): Did this Council ever reduce any motion for appointing Engineers?

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**RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI** (*Director of Agriculture and Fisheries*) : I do not blame the Council. The Government are responsible for spending the money allotted to the Engineering Department. While they are engaged in other important works minor irrigation is probably neglected. Mr. Vipan has pointed out the defects in the Irrigation Regulation. The old Regulation of 1072 requires modification. Under the Regulation when a minor irrigation tank has to be repaired the people of the locality have to agree to contribute half the cost of the restoration and the Dewan Peishkar should enquire and satisfy himself about the necessity of repairing the tank, then the P. W. D. should prepare an estimate that should go to the Government and a notification should appear in the Gazette. Then the estimate should go back to the P. W. D. for the execution of the work. It takes a long time to go through all these process and that is why the execution of works is being delayed.

**MR. K. MADHAVAN PILLAI** (*Trivandrum* cum *Neduvangad*) : Is the member aware that all the minor irrigation tanks in Madras are maintained at Government cost?

**RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI** (*Director of Agriculture and Fisheries*) : I only say I am not aware of it.

**MR. K. MADHAVAN PILLAI** (*Trivandrum* cum *Neduvangad*) : He may ask Mr. Vipan himself. He will tell him.

**RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI** (*Director of Agriculture and Fisheries*) : I am not aware of it.

**MR. V. CHELLAM PILLAI** (*Tovala*) : May I ask the member whether the necessity of amending the Regulation has been brought forward to the notice of the Government by the P. W. D.?

**RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI** (*Director of Agriculture and Fisheries*) : Government have realised the necessity for amending the Regulation.

As for the question of Mr. Madhavan Pillai I do not see why all the minor irrigation tanks should be maintained by Government. In Travancore a minor irrigation tank means a tank which irrigates from five to two hundred acres. I do not know whether the same definition holds good in Madras. That is a different question.

Government have realised the importance of minor irrigation and they have had under consideration for sometime a scheme to create an agency for the execution of minor irrigation works and with a view to bring the Irrigation Regulation up-to-date. Several criticisms have been made by the members on the other side of the House now and on previous occasions against the policy of Government in regard to minor irrigation and Government think that before they proceed further in the matter they should invite the opinion of the public through an enquiry conducted by a committee, consisting of official and non-official members. So, I may say on behalf of Government that they have decided to appoint a committee without any loss of time consisting of non-officials and officials not only for the purpose of investigating



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[Rao Sahib Dr. N. Kunjan Pillai.]

the irrigation works that have to be carried out but also for drafting an amending Bill to the Irrigation Regulation of 1072. With this assurance, I hope Mr. Krishna Pillai will not press his motion.

**MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN** (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): Sir, I support the adjournment motion. My main purpose in standing up is to welcome the announcement made by the Director of Agriculture stating that he wishes to promote the cause of irrigation works with the co-operation of non-officials. I may assure him that we are always ready to co-operate with the Government for the purpose of promoting the advancement of the people. When I heard the Chief Engineer reading out a long list of figures, of course, I fully sympathised with him and I thought that he has as much difficulty as the non-official members in seeing that these works are carried out. Sir, this is not a new subject. We have been requesting the Government to carry out irrigation works and I think not even a single day passes in this Council without either a question or a resolution or a motion bringing to the notice of Government that irrigation works should be improved. But, I am not at all satisfied with the promise which was held out at the close of the speech of the Director of Agricutlure saying that 'before long' he will see that the necessary steps are taken by Government. What I wish to say is that it is only very rare that we get an opportunity to discuss an adjournment motion and when we discuss an adjournment motion is it not proper for the Government to take immediately the necessary steps and announce before the House that the House should elect a committee?

**RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI** (*Director of Agriculture and Fisheries*): May I ask what the member means by 'immediately'?

**MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN** (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): The Government should ask the House to elect a committee from this House consisting of non-officials and officials for drawing up a scheme for improving irrigation works and for suggesting the necessary amendments to the Irrigation Regulation.

**RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI** (*Director of Agriculture and Fisheries*): May I know what the member means by the word 'immediately'—does he mean at once or before the House rises for the day?

**MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN** (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): Since permission to move this adjournment motion was given yesterday and since the subject is not a new one there is no difficulty for the Government, as far as I could see, to announce before we rise for the day that they intend to have a committee and request the non-officials to elect that committee to-day or to-morrow. That is all that I have to say. I think that the term 'before long' is pretty uncertain. With these words I support the motion.

**MR. N. K. KRISHNA PILLAI** (*Neyyattinkara*): Sir, I am very glad—I may even say that we on this side of the House are extremely glad that the Government do realise the extreme importance of the subject.

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Though from Mr. Vipan's speech we are not able to gather anything as to the intentions of the Government, Dr. Kunjan Pillai has disclosed several facts to show that the Government have not been keeping quiet and that they immediately propose to do something on behalf of the ryots in the matter of minor irrigation. Though for my own part I have not much faith in the promises held out by Government, still in view of the most emphatic way in which Dr. Kunjan Pillai as the spokesman of the Government has announced their intention to do something immediately, I think, I must withdraw my motion, at the same time, thanking the Government heartily for their promise so gracefully made.

The motion was, by leave, withdrawn.

**PRESIDENT**: The motion having been withdrawn, the House will pass on to the next business. But as it is past five o'clock the House will now rise for the day and meet again at 11-30 A. M. to-morrow.

The Council adjourned at 5-10 P. M. to meet again at 11-30 A. M. the next day.

T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR,
*Secretary to the Legislative Council.*

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